

10/674,186
END5212USNP

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as set forth below without prejudice to applicant pursuing one or more of the claims as originally filed in a continuation application.

Claims 1-9. (Previously Cancelled)

10. (currently amended) A medical device comprising:

a flexible member;

an end effector operatively associated with a distal end of the flexible member; and

a handle operatively associated with the proximal end of the flexible member;

wherein the handle is sized and shaped to be gripped by a single hand;

wherein the handle comprises an actuator operable by the same hand for operating the end effector through the flexible member with a portion of the flexible member in a looped configuration behind the same hand, ~~wherein the proximal end of the flexible member is fixed relative to the handle, and wherein the flexible member extends from a single end of the handle;~~ and

~~wherein an outer surface of the handle is sized and shaped to be gripped by a single hand and~~
wherein the actuator is disposed on the handle to be operated by the same hand holding the handle without the use of the thumb or index finger of the same hand, while the thumb and index finger of the same hand are free to grip and advance the portion of the flexible member in a looped configuration.

11. (currently amended) The device of claim 10 wherein the end effector is selected from the group consisting of a biopsy forceps, grasping forceps, and surgical scissors, extractors, washing pipes, needle injectors, non-energized snares, and electrosurgical snares.

10/674,186
END5212USNP

12. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 10 wherein the flexible member has a length of at least 0.5 meter.

13. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 10 wherein the flexible member has a flexible shaft having a length of at least 1.0 meter.

14. (currently amended) The device of claim 10 wherein the handle has a proximal end, a distal end, and an outer surface, the handle outer surface extending lengthwise intermediate the handle proximal and distal ends, with the handle outer surface having a maximum width portion disposed intermediate the handle proximal and distal ends, wherein the handle outer surface has a length that is greater than the width of the maximum width portion, and wherein the actuator comprises a lever, the lever extending lengthwise alongside at least a portion of the handle outer surface, and wherein the lever extends alongside the maximum width portion of the handle outer surface, a maximum width dimension disposed intermediate the proximal and distal ends of the handle, and the outer surface being tapered intermediate the maximum width dimension and each of the proximal and distal ends such that the outer surface has a relatively smaller width dimension at each of the proximal and distal ends.

15. (currently amended) The device of Claim 10 wherein the actuator comprises a lever positioned adapted to be squeezed between fingers of the same hand holding the handle and a housing portion of the handle, and wherein the lever extends alongside the housing portion of the handle, the lever having a length that is at least half the length of the handle is pivotably supported adjacent an end of the handle associated with the flexible member.

16. (currently amended) A system for operating a flexible endoscopic device with one hand comprising:

- an end effector having a first configuration and a second configuration;
- a handle;
- a flexible shaft extending intermediate the end effector and the handle;
- the handle comprising:

10/674,186
END5212USNP

a housing, the housing being longer than the housing is wide, and the housing sized and shaped adapted to be grasped by a single hand;
an actuator comprising a lever extending lengthwise alongside the housing associated with the housing and operable by the hand holding the housing to actuate the end effector from the first configuration to the second configuration; wherein at least the thumb and index finger of the same hand holding the housing are free to grip and release the flexible shaft of the device; and
a release operable for returning the end effector to the first configuration.

17-20 (canceled).

21. (Cancelled)

22. (currently amended) A medical device comprising:

a handle sized and shaped adapted to be gripped by a single hand;
an elongate, flexible member extending from the handle, the flexible member having a proximal end and a distal end; and
an end effector operatively associated with a distal end of the flexible member;

wherein the handle comprises an actuator for operating the end effector through the flexible member with a portion of the flexible member in a looped configuration and wherein the actuator is positioned on the handle adapted to be operated by the same hand holding the handle and without use of the thumb or index finger of the same hand; and

wherein the handle comprises a release operatively associated with the end effector, wherein the release is operable by the thumb or index finger of the same hand holding the handle.

23. (previously presented) The medical device of Claim 22 wherein the release is disposed at a first end of the handle and wherein the elongate flexible member extends from a second, opposite end of the handle.

10/674,186
END5212USNP

24. (currently amended) The medical device of Claim ~~22~~ 23 wherein the actuator comprises a lever extending lengthwise alongside an outer surface of the handle, and wherein the lever has a length at least half that of the handle. ~~is disposed intermediate the release and the second end of the handle.~~

25. (previously presented) The medical device of Claim 22 wherein the actuator is operable for closing the end effector and wherein the release is operable for opening the end effector.

26. (previously presented) The medical device of Claim 22, wherein the medical device further comprises a ratchet mechanism, and wherein the release is adapted to disengage the ratchet mechanism.